

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

This chapter reviews agency consultation, coordination and public participation that occurred during the preparation of the Draft Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan Amendment and Draft Rangeland Health Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION PROCESS

A Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Livestock Grazing Allotments Administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah, was published in the Federal Register on August 31, 2000. The public was invited as part of the scoping process to provide “information, data or concerns related to the potential impacts of livestock grazing...”.

Three scoping open houses were held on Sept. 18, 2000 in Kanab, Utah; Sept. 20, 2000 in Salt Lake City, Utah; and October 4, 2000 in Escalante, Utah.

In July 2001, an update letter was sent to interested publics. In July 2004, a second update letter was sent to interested publics.

During public review of this DEIS public meetings will be held in Kanab, Escalante and Salt Lake City at a minimum.

On March 31, 2008 another update letter was sent to interested publics. This letter was sent to 938 groups, organizations, agencies, and individuals. This letter notified the public that the DEIS will be available in three formats;

- viewing and downloading in PDF format at http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/planning/existing_plans.html
- Mailed upon request in CD ROM format
- Mailed upon request in hardcopy (paper) format

This letter included a post card with instructions to return if the reviewer wished to receive the DEIS by mail in the CD ROM or hardcopy format otherwise it is assumed the web site version would be used. The letter also indicated that a response could be sent via e-mail to UT_GSENM_NEPA@blm.gov.

Post cards or e-mail responses were received from 109 groups, organizations, agencies, and individuals. The post office returned 124 letters as undeliverable. The names on these were removed from the mailing list.

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CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH FEDERAL, STATE, TRIBAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Federal

Informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has occurred throughout the process. USFWS provided general comments and a list of species of concern. In accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402: 51 FR 19926, June 3, 1986) the Bureau of Land Management will prepare a Biological Assessment (BA) that analyzes the potential effects to all federally-listed species that may result from the implementation of decisions proposed by BLM within the DEIS. This BA will be submitted to the USFWS when the DEIS becomes available for public review.

The Environmental Protection Agency has been requested to review this DEIS. Coordination with the Dixie National Forest has occurred informally at the local level through staff at the Escalante Interagency Office. The National Park Service, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is a Cooperating Agency.

State

The State of Utah is a Cooperating Agency. During the scoping period numerous informal discussions were held with State officials as to the most effective method for State participation. A representative of State of Utah is a member of the planning team and as such is invited to participate in all team meetings.

Tribal governments

Consultation with tribal governments has been initiated.

Counties

BLM has implemented Cooperating Agency Agreements with both Kane and Garfield counties. Representatives from both Kane and Garfield Counties are members of the planning team and as such are invited to participate in all team meetings.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

A complete distribution list of all groups, organizations, agencies, and individuals that have been provided a copy of the document is maintained at the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument headquarters located at 190 East Center, Kanab, Utah.

PREPARERS/TEAM MEMBERS

This DEIS was prepared by an interdisciplinary team of BLM specialists and cooperators from Federal, State and local agencies as listed below.

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Current BLM staff

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Rusty Lee	Escalante Field Station Manager
Karen Weiss	Kanab Field Station Manager
Terry Tolbert	Wildlife Biologist
Allan Bate	Rangeland Management Specialist
Sean Stewart	Rangeland Management Specialist
Dustin Rooks	Botanist /Rangeland Management Specialist
Raymond Brinkerhoff	Rangeland Management Specialist
Brian Taylor	Rangeland Management Specialist
Richard Madril	Lead Rangeland Management Specialist
James Holland	Hydrologist
Amber Hughes	Botanist
Matt Zweifel	Archaeologist
Clay Stewart	Outdoor Recreation Planner
Kim Anderson	Ecologist
Matt Betenson	Geographic Information Specialist
Paul Chapman	Writer/Editor; NEPA Specialist
Larry Lichthardt	Lead Range Program Specialist, BLM Utah State Office

Cooperators

Mark Habbeshaw	Kane County Commissioner, County representative
Clair Ramsey	Garfield County Commissioner, County representative
Brian Bremner	Garfield County, Engineer
Val Payne	State of Utah
Steve Bekedam	National Park Service, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

Advisors

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Randy Beckstrand	Range Management Specialist, BLM Utah State Office

Consultants

SWCA	Socio-economic baseline and assessment
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